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AMENDMENT(S) TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) A method of making and using a plastic rod for a storage battery hydrometer, said method comprising steps of:

- providing a storage battery having an opening;
- providing a mold having an elongated, substantially cylindrical barrel-forming portion and an injection gate along the barrel-forming portion;
- providing a pocket in the mold adjacent the injection gate;
- injecting plastic into the mold through the injection gate and flowing the plastic into the pocket as injection of plastic into the mold is completed, thereby forming said rod into a substantially, cylindrical solid piece of material with an injection stress relieving formation formed from the plastic inserted into the pocket of the mold; and
- inserting said rod into said opening in said storage battery.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20 including providing two pockets symmetrically arranged on opposite sides of the injection gate, and flowing plastic into said pockets as injection of plastic into the mold is completed.

22. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein said rod has an injection site on a cylindrical surface of said rod for the injection molding process along the length thereof, and wherein said injection stress relieving formation in said rod is adjacent said injection site.

23. (New) The method of claim 22 including first and second injection stress relieving formations on opposite sides of said injection site.

24. (New) The method of claim 23 wherein said first and second injection stress relieving formations are outward projections from the surface of said rod.

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25. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein said first and second injection stress relieving projections are elongated along the length of the rod.

26. (New) The method of claim 25 wherein said first and second elongated stress-relieving projections have tapered ends.

27. (New) The method of claim 26 wherein said projections are provided at a minimum incline of one degree.

28. (New) The method of claim 26 wherein said projections end at a maximum angle of 90 degrees to a tangent of said injection site.

29. (New) The method of claim 28 wherein said projections are provided at a minimum incline of one degree.

30. (New) The method of claim 29 wherein said plastic is light transmissive.

31. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein said plastic is light transmissive.

32. (New) The method of claim 31 wherein said plastic is acrylic.

33. (New) The method of claim 20 wherein said rod is made of light transmissive plastic having a cone shaped tip at one end thereof and an indicating surface at an opposite end thereof, with an injection site for the injection molding process along a length thereof, and wherein first and second injection stress relieving formations are arranged symmetrically on opposite sides of said injection site.

34. (New) The method of claim 33 wherein said first and second stress relieving formations are projections from the surface of said rod.

35. (New) The method of claim 34 wherein said plastic is acrylic.

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36. (New) The method of claim 34 wherein said projections are elongated along a length of said rod.

37. (New) The method of claim 36 wherein said elongated projections have tapered ends.

38. (New) The method of claim 33 wherein said first and second stress relieving formations are projections extending from a surface of said rod at a minimum incline of one degree.

39. (New) The method of claim 33 wherein said first and second stress relieving formations are projections from a surface of said rod ending at a maximum angle of 90 degrees to a tangent of said injection site.

40. (New) The method of claim 39 wherein said projections extend at a minimum incline of one degree.